



- **A Nonprofit Organization**

The Public is Invited to Attend our Meetings

SVDB Web Site <http://www.sacramentovalleydetectingbuffs.com/>

Issue Date February 2011

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs

2011 Elected Officers

President: *Duffy*

[pres_svdb \(at\) att.net](mailto:pres_svdb@att.net)

Vice President: *Paul Giese*

[ppgiese4au \(at\) comcast.net](mailto:ppgiese4au@comcast.net)

Secretary: *Barbara Anderton*

[Lcrbean \(at\) aol.com](mailto:Lcrbean@aol.com)

Treasurer: *Charlotte Key*

moxieroxie@msn.com

2011 Volunteer Positions

Hospitality: *Al & Linda Woltman*

[looking4au \(at\) live.com](mailto:looking4au@live.com)

Hunt Master: *Cyndy Johnson & Charles Long*

[cynthia.johnston \(at\) att.net](mailto:cynthia.johnston@att.net)

Librarian: *Tom Schweppe*

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Membership: *George Magann*

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Raffle Table: *Mary Ann Meji, Don Ivers & James Neeley*

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Web-Site Editor: *Vince Migliore*

[tabcity \(at\) aol.com](mailto:tabcity@aol.com)

Miscellaneous Club News

○ A request was made to publish

GeorgeMagann's address so you can mail him next year's dues if you can't pay at the meetings.

Dues are \$30 for 1 person or \$40 per family.

BTW, everybody please check & give George your current address, phone # and email address - several member's information is not up to date.

Here is George's address:

George Magann

1740 Sessler Dr

Yuba City, CA 95993

○ *Lee Wiese also publishes a comprehensive national metal detecting newsletter & here is a link to click on or cut/paste.*

<http://www.mdhtalk.org/>



January 6th, 2011 SVDB Meeting Minutes

President's Report: John Duffy

- John introduced Board Members and also welcomed new visitors Tim Kut, Jack Cooper, Larry Monroe, Jerry Nerbovig, Juanita Tayabus, and Andrew Onyett, to our SVDB meeting. Gene Firstenberg Senior member of the Club. Welcome to SVDB!

Vice President's Report: Paul Giese

- Talked about the "future" treasure hunts to be planned.

Secretary's Report: Don Dunn

Treasurer's Report: Linda Woltman

- Linda gave this month's treasurer's report:

Beginning Balance:	\$1,948.24
Expenses:	\$3,780.08
Income:	\$3,320.00
Ending Balance:	\$1,488.16

Membership Report: George Magann

- 180 members. Some members need to pay dues.
- We had 74 people at tonight's meeting.

See You at the February 3rd Meeting

- SVDB Meetings are held at the old SMUD Building in North Highlands. It's located at the intersection of SMUD Drive and Don Julio Blvd.

The meeting is held in a large room facing Elkhorn on the first Thursday of each month and starts at 7:30 pm. We meet close to where all the cars are parked in the SMUD parking lot near Elkhorn Blvd.

Day-In-The-Park Hunts:

- There are 3 day-in-the park hunts per month. The hunts are on the first, second and third Sundays of each month. Sunday breakfast is at 8:00 am with the hunt starting at 9:00 am. More hunts are organized using [Meetup](#). Cindy and Paul will plan upcoming hunts. The meeting places for the Sunday hunts are:

- 1st Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's Watt and Auburn
- 2nd Sunday Hunt: Meet at Denny's at Sunrise and Zinfandel Drive (2474 Sunrise Blvd)
- 3rd Sunday Hunt: Meet Pancake House at 21st & Broadway

- ***Day-In-The-Park Hunt Results and Oldest Coin Winners:***

December 4th: American River College. Total members hunting: 10. Total coins found 340. Most

January 2011							February 2011							March 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28						27	28	29	30	31		
31						30														

coins found: by Kyle Miles-153. Oldest coin: by John Duffy 1956 Wheat penny.

- What coin has 118 ridges around its edge?

Calendar Legend

SVDB Monthly Meetings

SVDB Hunt

Rain Delay Date for Park Hunt



Hunt Master Report: Cyndy Johnson & Charles Long

- The next planted hunt should be in Feb 2011.
- Cyndy Johnston's brother has 20 acres of unimproved /undisturbed land in the Sonora/Stanslaw Forest area. He has given her & any of her friend's permission to detect on his land. If you're interested in going when the snow/rain stops (4WD would be preferred) See Cyndy at meetings & give name/phone number. Looking at March date or later.

Librarian Report: Tom Schweppe

- Tom reported that the library was in Great shape. However, some people need to return library books and videos on loan.



- Chet Buress won tonight's 1/10 Ounce Gold American Eagle coin.



Chet Buress

SVDB Finds of the Month (FOM):

- Eight members brought their great finds to the January meeting for everyone to see.
- FOM (Show & Tell) winner was Bob Woods.



Raffle Table - Mary Ann

January 2011 Raffle Results:

- We received \$876.00 from the December raffle. Thanks to **Mary Ann Meji** for selling tonight's raffle tickets!
- What coin has 118 ridges around its edge? A Dime.



Pres. John Duffy Working hard

- Lee Wiese spoke on update on legislation around the United States. Two counties in Florida are closing out metal detecting. More and more detectorists are out there. Washington state is a problem, they closing down parks and need our help to stop this. Wisconsin has a bill being introduced to make fees mandatory for a class teaching how to detect. There are dredging issues as well. Lee is offering metal detecting class 101, 102, & 103 for beginner hunters. Sign up for this class and he will announce when and where at the next meeting.
- Yancy Dearing is ill, please keep her in our prayers.
- Membership winner- Cecilia Vela.

RIGHT ON THE BUTTON

By Ron Aldridge

The roughly constructed stone cellar and the solitary beehive oven and chimney were the only reminders of a dwelling over two centuries old. It was a miracle that the 1700s portion of the wooden frame house had been saved from demolition through the efforts of a private party. The structure was meticulously disassembled one mortise & tenon and later reassembled at another site. The property, a victim of economic expansion and highway development, was farthest from the main construction activity, and with the contractor's permission we were allowed to detect there over a period of six months.

It was a rough site with piles of dirt and broken concrete, overgrown with grass and weeds, and littered with metal from the previous structure. Over the months we were able to find shoe and knee buckles, more than four dozen early one-piece buttons (one button may be a livery button from the original land grant family), early King George coppers, and large cents, as well as newer coins. One coin found, which has yet to be authenticated,

RIGHT ON THE BUTTON (Continued)

may be a scarce 1787 Nova Eborac (New York copper) illegally produced at a local, late 1700s mint.

Our window of opportunity was rapidly disappearing as the bulldozers inched closer every day. With time running out, and

knowing there had to be more relics, I called a friend from Connecticut who specializes in detecting foundations and cellar holes. On a cold fall morning we arrived at the site and initially found a few more buttons. Jerry then went into the hole to detect the inside front wall and soon found an old brass thimble behind a foundation stone. This find immediately prompted the suggestion to dig out the entire front wall and remove the dirt about 5' in front of it. His idea was supported by the possibility of increased circulation around the front door of the house, and perhaps the existence of a porch over this area.

We collapsed the foundation stones inward and started digging and spreading the earth for detection and eyeballing of marbles, clay pipes, and other relics. Besides the predictable clam shells, pottery shards, and rusty nails, more thimbles, large one-piece buttons, buckles, and an early George II copper were found in the moved dirt. During one of my turns detecting I found a strange looking, thick one-piece button. While taking a break, I scrutinized this button more closely and noticed numbers or letters on the face, "Possibly my first Rev. War button," I thought. As the sunlight began to delineate the figures, I noticed a capital A, and then I blurted out, "USA!"

Jerry heard me and immediately replied, "Continental Army button!" Finally—my first Rev. War button in digging over a thousand Colonial military, and miscellaneous buttons, including one Washington Inaugural button. Further research determined that the button is a Continental Army general service, cast pewter, one-piece and 19mm in diameter. I'd waited a long time for this one...and it was worth it!



CRIMEFIGHTERS

By Michael Silverman

Treasure hunters and other metal detector enthusiasts turned out to help the Virginia Beach, Virginia police find what might be the weapon used in the grisly murder of two local boys.

A 16-year-old-boy has been charged with the murder of two boys, whose bodies were found in the woods near their homes.

The Tidewater Coin and Relic Club and other TH'er- about 50 people- scoured the woods for clues to the murder. A local TH'er, Charles Stevens, 69 found a survival knife around noon in swamp water about 20 yards from where the bodies were found.

After finding the knife, Mr. Stevens slipped off the end of a log next to where the boys were found and dislocated his shoulder. Police are not sure that the knife was the instrument used in the murder.

"We don't know whether it (the knife) is related," said a police spokesman. "It doesn't seem likely, but we can't rule it out."

Hunt Those Nooks & Crannies

By Betty R. Maruna

Admittedly, the amount of money was not enormous, but that wasn't the point anyway. The point was that compared to the \$1 or less the five other hunters got that morning, \$4.53 was a lot.

It was still dark when the hunt began. The usual spots were nearly empty, so it was time to head to the nooks and crannies.

The first area was about three feet wide, a strip between a deck where food is served and eaten and a wall. The general area was obviously well hunted, but this strip wasn't. There were several coins and lots of trash. It took a fair amount of time to get the junk out, but it was worth it. Fortunately, garbage cans were handy, so it wasn't necessary to pack around the trash.

One set of stairs that led down to the beach was well tucked away. It wasn't entirely hidden, but it was out of the way and never looked used. It was, however, near the walkway to the restaurant, the main walk along the street and at the back corner of the restrooms. This is the kind of nook that has potential, and it has already produced both coins and jewelry.

All of you probably have favorite nooks and crannies you could share with other readers. It isn't necessary to say exactly where your favorite nook or cranny is, just the types of places that you look for that are potentially good hunting areas. Everyone appreciates a new idea of someplace to hunt.

Other good places to check out are the corners of play equipment yards and under the ledge that is often on the boards around the area. Just like park benches, these ledges are used to sit on, and sitting down turns pockets at least sideways so that coins can find their way out. Just outside the boards is also a good place to check, for the same reason.

Some time ago, an article was written about the shrubs and plants around buildings. They are usually quite small when planted, and therefore hunting in near the trunk of these plants can be quite interesting. Hunting near the plants should be done very carefully so that the plant roots are not damaged. This is often a good area around elementary schools because children like to play hide and seek. The gardening crews at schools work this area up every once in awhile, and that gives you a new area of dirt to go through.

Don't forget the ground cover areas. Everyone likes to cut corners. If you see that the areas are getting poor looking, keep your eyes open. It may all be dug up, and you can get a chance to check it out while the area is bare.

Hunt Those Nooks & Crannies (Continued)

A tree line anyplace where people might get together often provides some good hunting. In the summer, people tend to get under the shade of a tree even if there is no grass, and children like it just as well without grass as with. Children also like to swing from the limbs of the trees, so there is potential under the trees even if there is very little space. On many school grounds the fences were not in the original plans. Remember, people sit in the shade, stretch out to cool off, wrestle, and snuggle- all activities that cause coins to drop out of pockets.

Areas beside grandstands are good locations. If there is access under the grandstand, it is worth checking out. Sometimes there is only a small area toward the back of the grandstand that is open to the ground, but it shouldn't be ignored. It is good to check just under the front of the grandstand, too. People often get into their pockets when they are planning on getting something to eat or drink.

That also brings up the areas around the snack shack. Even if the entire front of the snack is concrete, there is usually some grass close by. The back of the building is a good place to check out, too. If you know where a food vendor stops, that would also be a good area to check out. Money changes hands in a hurry at all these areas, and some of it does get lost.

The area between a fence and sidewalk is a good place to check. You might have to work with your detector to get it to do the best possible job, since the fence will no doubt cause problems. You can learn to work around these areas quite close to the fence if you have adjustments on your detector. Corners of the fence line can be very good, but they are even more difficult to work if the fence is metal. Remember, it is very possible that that wonderful wood fence has some very large rusty nails that could give some trouble too.

Parking areas are good to check. There are often small areas where there are cars parked all of the time. It might be a pull-off by the highway where there is a good view or a telephone handy. Anyplace where the car keys have to be taken out of a pocket can provide some good hunting.

Nooks and crannies are often just enough off the beaten track to be ignored by the majority of hunters. Even if the area has been detected in the past, the newer, deeper searching detectors sometimes produce exciting finds.

VIKING TREASURE

By Cheryl Fealy

One of the biggest Viking treasures ever found has been discovered on an English farm by a father-son team of treasure hunters, the British Museum announced recently.

The trove of coins and jewelry was buried more than 1,000 years ago- a collection of items from Ireland, France, Russia and Scandinavia that testified to the raiders' international reach.

"It's a fascinating find, it's the largest find of its type of over 150 years," said Gareth Williams, an expert at the British Museum who examined the items. He said it was the largest such find in British history since the 1840 discovery of the Cuerdale Hoard - a mass of 8,500 silver coins, chains, and amulets.

David Whelan, 60, and his 35-year-old son Andrew were trawling through a farmer's field near Harrogate, in northern England, when their metal detector squealed. The pair began digging, finding a silver bowl more than a foot beneath the soil. Under British law, such finds must be reported to authorities.

The pair turned the bowl over to archaeological experts, who discovered it was packed with coins and jewelry. The bowl, a 9th century gilt silver container probably seized by Vikings from a monastery, had been used as an improved treasure chest before being buried.

"We thought it was marvelous," David Whelan told The Associated Press. "But we didn't know for nearly a month what was in it." In all, more than 600 coins and dozens of other objects, including a gold arm band, silver ingots and fragments of silver were found in and around the container.

Some of the coins mixed Christian and pagan imagery, shedding light on the beliefs of newly Christianized Vikings, said Gareth Williams, a curator of early medieval coins at the British Museum.

The booty was likely accumulated through a combination of commerce and warfare, Williams said. Its quantity indicated that at least some of it was taken by force, perhaps in raids of northern Europe or Scandinavia, he added.

The items were manufactured as far afield as Afghanistan, Russia and Scandinavia.

The Vikings raids were chronicled as early as the eighth century by Christian monks on the coasts of northern Europe. The raids spread throughout Europe, from modern Spain to Turkey.

In some places, the raids grew into full-fledged invasions, and Viking kingdoms were established in Britain, Ireland, Normandy, France, and among other places.

The British Museum said the loot was hidden sometime after the fall of the Viking Kingdom of Northumbria in 927. Vikings often buried their wealth in times of trouble.

Viking Treasure (Continued)

The museum said it hoped to buy at least some of the hoard from the Whelan family once its value was determined.

Whelan, for his part, said he and his son enjoyed their walks through the countryside and would keep hunting together on the weekends.

“If we hadn’t found it we would’ve still been going,” he said, “We just keep going, we enjoy it.”

TOUCHING HISTORY

By Odean J. Vanthul

As any treasure hunter will tell you, keeping an eye out for any potential detecting site is a habit that forms quickly. While looking at the beauty of a landscape, a thought is always in the back of your mind; “This looks like a good place to metal detect!”

It was performing this habit that made me notice the bulldozers taking off the topsoil at an old military base to make way for a new parking lot. The parking lot was going to be at the oldest part of the base, and it was up to me to liberate those long-lost treasures that were still buried before they put the blacktop on.

My only problem was having to wait about a week before my schedule allowed me to search. As we all know, the anticipation can be stressful. We catch ourselves daydreaming about the “exotic finds” we will make once that day arrives.

Finally, it is Saturday. The sky is clear and sunny. The night before it had rained, making the ground soft for digging. Things were looking very promising. So, with my boots on and my Bounty Hunter metal detector tuned, I started my hunt. For the first hour the finds were elusive, but I had been making a lot of noise and was probably scaring them off. So, I calmed down, composed myself, and started again—slow and methodical, listening and evaluating the different sounds. After a few minutes, the finds started to show themselves. First a musketball, then another, a brass button, an Indian Head penny..this was getting to be fun!

*Another ten minutes, and I was rewarded with two post-Revolutionary War buttons. The first button was from the 1st Regiment of Artillery, c. 1802-1808, number AY13 in Alphaeus H. Albert’s book *Record of American Uniform and Historical Buttons*. The second button was a Naval button, c. 1802, number NA9 in the button book.*

I continued my hunt, knowing that there was more elusive game out there. After a few more coins and a couple more musketballs, I heard a faint sound. I went over the patch of ground again. There was no mistake. Something was down there. Pinpointing the target, I quickly extracted it—a silver coin. It did not look like a recently minted coin. I had found a 1785 Spanish 1 real coin in excellent condition.

I felt it was time for a break, so I found a big oak tree, pulled out my finds, sat down, and let my imagination go: “Whose coat did this button fall off? What were they doing in this spot so many years ago? How much could this 1 real buy back in 1785?” The questions were many, and touching a piece of history that our forefathers used more than 180 years ago was very intriguing. There is also the thrill of letting friends share in the excitement and letting your children see and touch a bit of history. This is a great hobby!



A 1785 Spanish 1 real was unearthed in excellent condition.

Mother Lode Mineral Society's
ROCK & GEM SHOW
MARCH 12 & 13TH

Saturday 10 am-6 pm & Sunday 10 am-5 pm
 Admission \$5.00 - 12 & under free

- 40+ Dealers, 100 Exhibits
- 35 Demonstrators!
- Large Children's Area
- Free Parking
- Fluorescent Tent
- Great Food



Speakers: (Check website for dates, times and additional info)
Bob Jones will talk about California Minerals.
Mike Kokinos will be talking about the benefits of 501(c)(3) non-profit status.
Larry Martin will be discussing Mammoth and other fossils found in the Madera Land Fill.
Gregg Wilkerson from BLM will speak on Land Claims.
Richard Wade will present fossils and dinosaurs for children of all ages.

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